

From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Mon 4/1/2013 8:57:58 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 4/1/13

OPA Daily Digest for 4/1/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Roy Blunt (Mo.) – Letter – 3/11/13: Constituent concern about CWA violations by Home Owners Association. Due: 3/25/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Mike Johanns (Ne) – Meeting inquiry – 3/26/13: Requesting follow-up on aerial surveillance letters dated May 26 and Aug 6, 2012. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Mike Johanns/Rep. Lee Terry (Ne) – Meeting inquiries – 3/26/13: Questions on the Omaha Lead Site. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

State Government Inquiries:

Office of the Director (Mo) – Email inquiry – 4/01/13: Requesting Review of HB944. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Press Inquiries:

Columbus Telegram – Tyler Ellison – 3/29/13: Questions about building demolition timeline at the 10th Street Superfund Site in Columbus, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

KMOV Channel 4, St. Louis – Russell Kinsaul – 4/1/13: Question about West Lake Landfill Site near Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Associated Press - Nebraska Cities to Celebrate Earth Day in April - 4/1/13 - Earth Day will be celebrated next month in communities around the state, including Omaha. Nebraska's largest city will hold its 23rd Earth Day Omaha event on April 20 in Elmwood Park. <http://www.1011now.com/news/headlines/Nebraska-Cities-to->

[Celebrate-Earth-Day-in-April-200787121.html](#)

St. Louis Post-Dispatch - Ameren coal ash used as mine fill near Ste. Genevieve - Ameren Missouri has spent the past four years engaged in a bitter fight with Labadie-area residents over a proposal to pile millions of cubic yards of coal ash. Meanwhile, the utility has found a very different way of getting rid of ash from another of its power plants. http://www.stltoday.com/business/local/ameren-coal-ash-used-as-mine-fill-near-ste-genevieve/article_c6a5f22b-e501-58a4-8e94-39ab29e65950.html

St. Louis Business Journal - Mississippi Lime using Ameren coal ash as mine fill - 4/1/13 - Ameren Missouri, which has long fought to put a landfill in Franklin County to store coal ash, is sending truckloads of it from its Rush Island plant for use as mine fill in an inactive section of Mississippi Lime Co.'s mine near Ste. Genevieve. http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2013/04/mississippi-lime-using-ameren-coal-ash.html

Ottumwa Courier (Iowa) - 'The time for controversies has passed' | Eldon, Batavia communities rally against proposed hog confinement operations coming to area - 3/30/13 - Eldon and Batavia citizens are banding together to stop two new hog confinement operations from moving in. <http://ottumwacourier.com/local/x1340801701/-The-time-for-controversies-has-passed>

Associated Press (Neb.) – Platte County working to reduce streambed problems - 4/1/13 - The county is hoping to come up with some solutions to the issue of streambed degradation by joining a coalition of Nebraska counties to form a coordinated effort. http://columbustelegram.com/news/state-and-regional/platte-county-working-to-reduce-streambed-problems/article_f35252eb-7152-518d-b9f4-4e56fa3cbfa8.html

Salina Journal - City to consider establishing Schilling fund - 3/30/13 - At their meeting Monday, Saline County commissioner will consider establishing a multiyear capital improvement fund to hold money that will go toward addressing the groundwater contamination on the site of the former Schilling Air Force Base. <http://www.salina.com/news/City-precceed-3-30-13-FOR-SUNDAY>

KFDI Radio Wichita, Kan. - Burning of Flint Hills creates balance between ranchers, EPA - 3/31/13 - Each April, farmers and ranchers in Kansas set miles of pastureland ablaze across the Flint Hills. The rebirth of the forage creates more growth for cattle to graze on, while shedding the land of plants that are not wanted. <http://www.kfdi.com/news/local/200786961.html>

Lexology - EPA loses another battle in the war over guidance: the Eighth Circuit vacates EPA policies on mixing zones and bypasses - 3/26/13 - On Monday, EPA lost another battle in the war over guidance concerning biological mixing zones and bypass of secondary treatment units at POTWs. <http://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f8e58278-b99a-47a9-ae94-9769c2928a22>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - EPA: More than half of Nebraska's rivers and streams degraded - 3/29/13 - When it comes to biological health, Nebraska's rivers and streams are in the same degraded shape as other United States waterways. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/epa-more-than-half-of-nebraska-s-rivers-and-streams/article_4b442d6c-8100-5d8c-810c-31b1440f91d5.html

Insurance Journal - Missouri AG Files Suit over Lingering Fire at Landfill - 4/1/13 - - Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster filed a lawsuit against the operators of a St. Louis County landfill where two years of underground smoldering is starting to emit a foul smell, alleging violations of state environmental laws. <http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/midwest/2013/04/01/286500.htm>

Grand Island Independent (Neb.) - Letter: Keystone XL pipeline is not safe - 3/30/13 - Last evening's news included a segment regarding the new EPA regulation requirements for our farmers concerning storage barrels of oil on their farms. It seems the EPA is concerned about potential spills and contaminating our water. I was speechless! http://www.theindependent.com/opinion/letters/keystone-xl-pipeline-is-not-safe/article_d53a3874-98c6-11e2-897b-001a4bcf887a.html

Omaha World-Herald - Pushing pipeline is keystone to Lee Terry's D.C. career - 3/31/13 - The Keystone XL oil pipeline would run from Canada to Texas, but one of its biggest champions is neither Canuck nor cowboy. Rep. Lee Terry has become the face of support for the controversial project in the House of Representatives. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130331/NEWS/703319876>

Omaha World-Herald - Weekly radio addresses pit Obama's message against Terry's - 3/30/13 - The President's address was dedicated to Christians celebrating Easter. In the Republican address, Rep. Lee Terry of Nebraska called for approval of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130330/NEWS/703319960>

Omaha World-Herald - Rep. Lee Terry will tout Keystone XL in GOP address today - 3/30/13 - Rep. Lee Terry was tapped to deliver today's weekly GOP address, with a focus on the Keystone XL pipeline. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130330/NEWS/703309906>

Omaha World-Herald - Does Nebraska's new lieutenant governor oppose the Keystone pipeline? - 3/39/13 - Is the state's new lieutenant governor opposed to the Keystone XL pipeline? Not at all, Lt. Gov. Lavon Heidemann said Thursday. <http://www.omaha.com/article/20130329/NEWS/703299902>

The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) - Column: Work on sustainability - 3/28/13 - Considering the proposed

comprehensive plan for Iowa City, I see a lack of imagination and a great deal of lip service. It is time for this city's council and administration to take climate change as serious, with imminent consequences.
<http://thegazette.com/2013/03/28/work-on-sustainability/>

Associated Press - Cleaner gas rule would mean higher price at pump - 3/39/13 - The Obama administration's newest anti-pollution plan would ping American drivers where they wince the most: at the gas pump.
<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/03/28/4149760/epa-to-propose-rule-to-clean-up.html>

The Hill (blog) - EPA's low-sulfur gasoline rules fuel fight with GOP over prices - 3/29/13 - EPA on Friday unveiled draft rules on auto emissions and low-sulfur gasoline designed to curb smog-forming, soot and toxic pollution, drawing attacks from Republicans who allege the mandate will increase consumer costs.
<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/290983-epa-unveils-low-sulfur-gasoline-rules-to-gop-jeers>

Mother Nature Network - Modified E. coli bacteria die without coffee - 3/29/13 - Scientists have engineered a strain of caffeine-dependent Escherichia coli that could be used in tackling water pollution.
<http://www.mnn.com/food/beverages/stories/modified-e-coli-bacteria-die-without-coffee>

The Hill - Senator accuses EPA of using 'secret data' to write regulations - 3/14/13 - Sen. David Vitter (R-La.) chided President Obama on Wednesday for failing to live up to his promises to run a transparent administration.
<http://thehill.com/blogs/regwatch/energyenvironment/288311-senator-accuses-epa-of-using-secret-data-to-write-regulations>

The News Leader, Springfield, Mo. - Energy bill's OK would impede jobs - 3/31/13 - When Missouri voters overwhelmingly passed a law for new clean-energy projects to comprise a larger part of Missouri's energy mix, they indicated a desire for the legislature to encourage investment and jobs in the state. The legislature is trying to change that. <http://www.news-leader.com/article/20130401/OPINIONS02/304010050/Energy-bill-s-OK-would-impede-jobs>

The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) -Fertilizer industry growing in Iowa - 3/31/13 - Iowa, it seems, has become a destination for companies that want to produce ammonium nitrate fertilizer.
<http://thegazette.com/2013/03/31/fertilizer-industry-growing-in-iowa/>

Des Moines Register - Utilities partner to add lines for wind energy in northern Iowa - 3/30/13 - The owners of the two largest electric transmission systems in Iowa have plans to build more than 400 miles of transmission lines by 2017 to accommodate Iowa's growing wind energy portfolio.
<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130330/BUSINESS/303300046/1029/>

Des Moines Register - Iowa fertilizer plant's site may be Indian burial ground - 4/1/13 - Regulators have issued a permit to allow construction of a \$1.3 billion fertilizer plant in southeast Iowa after a deal was reached to monitor the site to ensure it's not an Indian burial ground.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/viewart/20130401/BUSINESS/130401009/Iowa-fertilizer-plant-s-site-may-Indian-burial-ground>

Des Moines Register - Vilsack, Branstad rally for biofuel - 3/30/13 - The ag secretary and Iowa governor use DuPont Pioneer event in Johnston to defend Renewable Fuel Standard.

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20130330/BUSINESS/303300037/1029/NEWS/>

Sioux City Journal (Iowa) - How Safe is Your Well Water? - 3/31/13 - Just as if he was in an episode of "CSI," Tyler Brock diligently examines the contents of various liquid-filled test tubes. But the Siouxland District Health Department lab manager is testing vials full of water for contaminants such as coliform bacteria.

http://siouxcityjournal.com/special-section/siouxland_life/how-safe-is-your-well-water/article_d0027445-3b20-509e-9067-92210d8b9a09.html

Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier (Iowa) - Column: Iowa should throw away outmoded bottle bill - 3/31/13 -

Why can't Iowa just discard its bottle bill instead of adding to it? Forty of the 50 states have no such laws.

http://wfcourier.com/business/local/column-iowa-should-throw-away-outmoded-bottle-bill/article_4744c882-97df-11e2-b1b1-001a4bcf887a.html

Iowa State Daily (Ames) - Ellingson: Accumulation of plastic debris hurts environment - 4/1/13 - Next time you go shopping, think about the products you buy and the materials they are made of. If the option is available, buy more environmentally friendly products instead.

http://www.iowastatedaily.com/opinion/article_c6ec79c2-98a7-11e2-9723-0019bb2963f4.html

New York Times - Opinion: The Tar Sands Disaster - 3/31/13 - IF President Obama blocks the Keystone XL pipeline once and for all, he'll do Canada a favor.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/01/opinion/the-tar-sands-disaster.html>

Environmental Leader - Americans Want Climate Change Preparation, Don't Want to Pay for It - 4/1/13 -

An overwhelming majority of Americans want to prepare to minimize likely damage caused by global warming-induced sea-level rise and storms, but most citizens want people whose properties and businesses are located in hazard areas to foot the bill for such measures.

<http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/04/01/americans-want-climate-change-preparation-dont-want-to-pay-for-it/>

Environmental Leader - EPA Finalizes Power Plant Pollution Standards - 4/1/13 - The EPA has finalized

pollution limits for new power plants, setting emissions limits for mercury and toxic air pollutants like arsenic, acid gas, nickel, selenium and cyanide. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2013/04/01/epa-finalizes-pollution-standards-for-new-power-plants/>

Wall Street Journal - There Is Life After Death for Coal Power - 3/31/13 - Owning a coal-fired power plant won't necessarily make you popular, funny or attractive. But after years of losses, it may finally make you money. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424127887323361804578390561956760382.html>

Christian Science Monitor - Where do you stand on fracking? - 3/29/13 - Few topics in the energy sector generate more debate than the relative merits and demerits of fracking, Stuebi writes. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Environment/Energy-Voices/2013/0329/Where-do-you-stand-on-fracking>

NPR - State Gives Example Of New Federal Gas Standards (+audio) - 3/30/13 - The Environment Protection Agency has proposed new rules that will require cars to run on cleaner gas. The rules are intended to lower sulfur emission and reduce smog, and they'd go into effect in 2017. <http://www.npr.org/2013/03/30/175765573/state-gives-example-of-new-federal-gas-standards?ft=1&f=1025>

Economist - A sensitive matter - 3/30/13 - The climate may be heating up less in response to greenhouse-gas emissions than was once thought. But that does not mean the problem is going away. <http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21574461-climate-may-be-heating-up-less-response-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

Living on Earth: A Victory for GMOs – 3/31/13 - The bill Congress recently passed to avoid a government shutdown contained a rider that helps companies that make genetically modified crops. <http://www.loe.org/shows/segments.html?programID=13-P13-00013&segmentID=2>

Greenwire - After long delay, EPA rolls out strict sulfur rules for gasoline - 3/19/13 - The Obama administration today released a long-awaited proposal that would slash by two-thirds the amount of sulfur in gasoline, signaling to environmentalists and industry sources alike that the White House will move forward with a suite of air pollution regulations this term. <http://www.eenews.net/public/Greenwire/2013/03/29/1>

The Hill (blog) - Green groups want Supreme Court to revive power plant rule - 03/29/13 - Environmentalists are urging the Supreme Court to review a lower court ruling that scuttled a major Obama administration initiative to cut power plant pollution, alleging the decision was “riddled with error.” <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/291015-green-groups-want-supreme-court-to-revive-power-plant-rule>

Politico - With gasoline rule, W.H. picks a side - 3/29/13 - Is the Obama administration raring for a fight with Big Oil? One thing's for sure — the EPA's newly proposed regulation requiring refineries to cut the amount of sulfur in gasoline makes it clear that the White House is willing to put its auto industry friends before its longtime antagonists in the oil industry. <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/03/epa-proposes-long-awaited-tier-3-rule-89466.html>

NPR - EPA's Push For More Ethanol Could Be Too Little, Too Late - 4/1/13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency could soon issue a final ruling that aims to force oil companies to replace E-10, gasoline mixed with 10 percent ethanol, with E-15. <http://www.npr.org/2013/04/01/175871273/epas-push-for-more-ethanol-could-be-too-little-too-late>

The Business Journals - Proposed EPA rules could save lives, but increase cost of gas - 4/1/13 - A healthier America or more expensive gasoline -- that's the choice presented by EPA's proposal to reduce sulfur levels in gasoline and impose stricter emissions limits on new vehicles by 2017. <http://www.bizjournals.com/triad/blog/morning-edition/2013/04/proposed-epa-rules-could-save-lives.html>

ClimateWire - Could 'raging fireball' be the key to carbon-neutral fuel? - 4/1/13 - Researchers at the University of Georgia, P. furiosa's most important quality is its ability to fix carbon dioxide and convert it, with the help of hydrogen, into sugars. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/04/01/7>

ClimateWire - Texas deploys its 'rainy day fund' to start long-term fight against drought - 4/1/13 - Concerned about its continuing drought, the Lone Star State is embarking upon a multi-decade effort to increase water supplies and make it more resilient to the dry spells that climate scientists say will become more frequent. <http://www.eenews.net/climatewire/rss/2013/04/01/1>

Huffington Post - Pesticide Lobby Spends Millions To Defend Chemicals Tied To Bee Deaths - 4/1/13 - The chemical pesticide lobby is waging a multi-million dollar battle to prevent regulation of chemicals linked to the dramatic escalation in the deaths of pollinating bees over the past year. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/29/pesticide-lobby-bees_n_2980870.html

Reuters - Exxon pipeline leaks thousands of barrels of Canadian oil in Arkansas - 3/31/13 - Exxon Mobil was working to clean up thousands of barrels of oil in Mayflower, Arkansas, after a pipeline carrying heavy Canadian crude ruptured. <http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/31/exxon-pipeline-spill-idUSL2N0CN00D20130331>

The Washington Post - Exxon Mobil pipeline leaks 'a few thousand' barrels of crude oil in Arkansas - 3/31/13 - Exxon Mobil said that one of its pipelines leaked "a few thousand" barrels of Canadian heavy crude oil near Mayflower, Ark., prompting the evacuation of 22 homes and reinforcing concerns many critics have raised about the Keystone XL pipeline that is awaiting State Department approval. http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/exxon-mobil-pipeline-leaks-a-few-thousand-barrels-of-crude-oil-in-arkansas/2013/03/31/6868d6f6-9a2e-11e2-a941-a19bce7af755_story.html

Mother Jones - EPA to Study Flame Retardant Chemicals. Finally - 3/29/13 - The EPA announced this week that it will study the health and environmental risks of 23 chemicals, with an emphasis on chemical flame retardants that are found in many common products. <http://www.motherjones.com/blue-marble/2013/03/epa-flame-retardant-chemicals-tsca>

New York Times - As OSHA Emphasizes Safety, Long-Term Health Risks Fester - 3/30/13 - OSHA, the watchdog agency that many Americans love to hate and industry often faults as overzealous, has largely ignored long-term threats. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/31/us/osha-emphasizes-safety-health-risks-fester.html>

Inside Climate - Exxon Confirms Ruptured Pipeline in Ark. Carried Canadian Dilbit - 3/30/13 - The pipeline, called the Pegasus, leaked for about 45 minutes, according to local sources. Exxon has recovered 185,000 gallons of oil and water at site. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/20130330/exxon-confirms-ruptured-pipeline-ark-carried-canadian-dilbit>

Midwest Energy News - With Illinois coal hot, environmentalists demand reforms to mine permit system - 4/1/13 - Even as coal-fired power plants are closing nationwide, the coal industry is still very much alive — and facing environmental scrutiny — in Illinois mining country. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2013/04/01/with-illinois-coal-hot-environmentalists-demand-reforms-to-mine-permit-system/>

The Hill - Green groups want Supreme Court to revive power plant rule - 3/29/13 - Environmentalists are urging the Supreme Court to review a lower court ruling that scuttled a major Obama administration initiative to cut power plant pollution, alleging the decision was “riddled with error.” <http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/e2-wire/291015-green-groups-want-supreme-court-to-revive-power-plant-rule>

Climate Central - New Process May Make Renewable Energy Reliable at Last - 3/28/13 - Solar energy is virtually limitless, generates no planet-warming greenhouse gases — and is useless between sunset and sunrise. Wind energy is also plentiful and emits no carbon, and it can be harvested day or night, but not when the air is calm. A discovery announced in Thursday’s issue of Science may offer a way around these daunting problems, however. <http://www.climatecentral.org/news/new-process-could-make-renewable-energy-reliable-at-last-15786>

Chicago Tribune - Dental amalgam: Anti-mercury movement pushes for shifts in dentistry - 3/31/13 - As health debate about the safety of silver fillings rages, momentum is building to phase out dental amalgam. http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-03-31/business/ct-biz-0324-dental-amalgam-20130331_1_silver-fillings-anti-mercury-amalgam

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

4/10/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

4/16/13 - Greater St. Louis Air & Waste Management Association meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487.

4/17/13 – Smart Growth Technical Assistance Event, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

4/23/13 – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

4/30/13 – Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

5/9/13 - Four State Environmental Education Association Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Denise Morrison, 7402

5/15/13 - Federal Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/28-29/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

DRA:

4/10/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

4/15-17/13 - Attend Executive Management Council meeting, Washington, DC Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

5/9/13 - Four State Environmental Education Association Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Denise Morrison, 7402

5/15/13 - Federal Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/18-19/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

SA:

4/10/13 - Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

4/16/13 - 2013 Heartland Regional Water Conference, Overland Park, Kansas Contact: Josh Svaty, 7202

5/15/13 - Federal Executive Board Monthly Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

5/18-19/13 - Four State Directors Meeting, Kansas City, Kan. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

4/4/13 - Participating in East-West Gateway Council of Governments Spring Monitoring Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact Amy Bhesania, 7147.

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

SUPR

None

WWPD

4/1-5/13 - 2013 National Training Workshop on Clean Water 303(d) Listing and Total Maximum Daily Loads, Shepherdstown, W.Va. Contact: Tabatha Adkins, 7128

4/4/13 – Missouri Water and Waste Water Conference, St. Joseph, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/15-17/13 - Heartland Regional Water Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, Wayne Gieselman, 7785

4/16/13 – Missouri Safe Drinking Water Commission Meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

4/16/13 – Renovation, Repair and Painting Rule (RRP) and Lead Hazard Disclosure Presentation, Nebraska State Realtors Convention, La Vista, Neb. Contact: Tom Brick, 7913

4/19/13 – KU Environmental Engineering Conference, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Stan Calow, 7410